Press release

30 per cent chance of snow

17 December 2001

The chances of having a white Christmas this year are increasing, the Met Office has revealed.

The run up to Christmas Day shows periods of cold weather with a risk of snow showers, beginning in the north on Friday. But the Met Office has warned that it is still too early to be certain whether it will snow on the big day.

Forecasters at the Met Office in Bracknell are predicting a 30 per cent chance of snow in the north and east over the festive period, with the likelihood falling to less than 10 per cent further south and west.

Ewan McCallum, Head of Forecasting, said: "Christmas is still a long way off in weather forecasting terms; it is still difficult to predict weather in detail further than five days ahead, although we can give long-term probability guidance. With the cold weather continuing, snow will never be very far away."

More details about white Christmases.

Notes:

1. Last year was declared an official white Christmas at regional Met Offices in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Leeds, Birmingham and St Mawgan.

2. To be an official white Christmas, a flake of snow must be observed to fall at specific sites between midnight on December 24 and midnight on December 25, even if mixed with rain, and not necessarily snow lying on the ground.

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